



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE MARCH 1, 2002

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

- Illinois Homeland Security Director Matt Bettenhausen, Illinois Emergency Management (IEMA) Director Mike Chamness, and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Dr. John Lumpkin were part of a delegation of Illinois officials who accompanied Governor Ryan to the National Governor's Association (NGA) meeting in Washington, D.C. They met with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson to discuss the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as Health Resources and Services Association (HRSA) bioterrorism preparedness grants, of which Illinois is slated to receive \$42 million. They also met with Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge and other federal officials. In addition, Directors Bettenhausen and Chamness also attended the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) mid-year conference.
- IEMA Director Chamness and selected staff toured the American Red Cross (ARC) national Disaster Operations Center (DOC) this past weekend to learn more about the structure and organization of the ARC national response system.
- Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) conducted an 8 hour "Emergency Response To Terrorism: Basic Concepts" class on February 19 and 22. This class was delivered via satellite through the University of Illinois Satellite Network to 286 students at 16 locations. With other classes offered between February 17 and 23, this makes a weekly total of 20 IFSI classes for 675 students.
- The ARC is currently involved in a variety of notable activities. ARC will be working with IEMA and the State Board of Education to develop a better GIS based database of schools that can be used as shelter facilities. ARC will also be working with CMS to identify state employees, that are not normally first responders, with key skills (e.g. bilingual, sign language, medical license) that could be helpful in disaster response. Additionally, at the request of IEMA, ARC will make cultural diversity training available to key state staff to help them to better deal with special issues unique to disasters in urban areas.
- A news release was issued February 25 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announcing that the traditional opening dates for Braidwood Lake (March 1) and LaSalle Lake (March 15) will not take place this year. These lakes may open later in the spring. The lakes are managed by the Department of Natural Resources, but are owned by Exelon Nuclear.
- The DNR Office of Mines and Minerals (OMM) is working in cooperation with the State Treasurer's Office at the 300 West Jefferson (Springfield) location on a joint Fire Drill and Severe Weather Drill. The Severe Weather Drill will be conducted in accordance with the State Wide Tornado Drill in March of 2002.
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) staff met with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) to discuss development of a bioterrorism tabletop exercise featuring a

zoonotic disease. As a background, IDOA recently received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to conduct the following activities: create a regional emergency management council comprised of state departments of agriculture, public health, and emergency management agencies in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin; develop a regional response plan for an animal disease outbreak; conduct a regional tabletop animal disease emergency response exercise; and develop and/or purchase and implement a regional electronic system to track the movement of animals and monitor disease outbreaks. The IDOA has asked IDPH staff to assist with the development of the exercise. The exercise will feature a zoonotic disease that will impact both the agriculture and public health communities. Additional meetings will be conducted between the two agencies.

- On May 29-30, 2002, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) will present the *Preparing the Heartland, The Illinois Bioterrorism Summit - 2002* in Oakbrook, Illinois. The purpose of the summit is to provide local health department staff and other medical and public health officials with a comprehensive overview of the federal, state and local bioterrorism preparedness activities that are on-going in Illinois. Additionally, the summit will provide a forum to facilitate networking among IDPH, local health departments and the medical community. IDPH is excited to announce that they have received a confirmation from Richard Preston, author of *The Hot Zone* and *The Cobra Event*, to provide the keynote address.

The primary audience for the summit would be local health department staff, including administrators, environmental health, nursing, communicable disease and laboratory employees; hospital emergency department, infectious disease and laboratory personnel; and other medical providers. The secondary audience would be emergency medical service, first responder and emergency management personnel. It is the goal of the planning committee to present a conference that will provide essential information to assist the public health and medical community to prepare for and respond to bioterrorism.

- The Illinois Department of Public Health has completed the application process for Phase I of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) bioterrorism preparedness grant. Phase I of the HRSA grant was due on February 25, 2002. By completing Phase I of the grant, Illinois is now eligible to receive 20% of their FY2002 HRSA funding allocation. Phase II of the HRSA grant is due on April 15, 2002.
- As of February 25, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Springfield and Chicago laboratories have processed 1,637 samples. All have been negative for anthrax.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal has conducted weekly meetings with the Governor's Office of Technology staff and Central Management Services (CMS) to finalize plans for connecting emergency response agencies with state government during a crisis, including a terrorism incident. The following technologies are being integrated: internet access and email, Illinois Century Network, Illinois Video Network, video conferencing and internet conferencing. The plan calls for placing computers in about half of fire departments in the state.
- The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will conduct a meeting Thursday, February 28, 2002, with a task force of select utility executives and their chiefs of security. Dialogue as to how we communicate with the utilities during emergencies will be the focus of the group.
- The Illinois Department of Agriculture reports that as the result of the Regional Animal Disease Grant Planning Meeting in Chicago on January 23-24, 2002, four working groups have scheduled follow-up activity. The four groups participating are: Communication

Working Group, Standardization of State Emergency Response Plans Working Group, Livestock Movement Working Group, and Regional Plan Working Group. These groups will work to develop an interactive plan to address foreign animal diseases on a regional emergency response level.

- Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS) has been working to integrate federal resources into the Illinois Plan for Radiological Accidents (IPRA) exercises whenever and wherever possible. As a result of these efforts, the Department of Energy's Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) team from Argonne National Lab has agreed to participate in the LaSalle IPRA exercise in March 2002.
- IDNS continues to work with Exelon Corporation on various upgrade proposals to the Nuclear Accident Reporting System (NARS). Exelon and its contractors are investigating several options. IDNS is monitoring their progress to ensure the practicability of any option.
- The Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Aeronautics has been in contact with the Illinois Developmental Finance Authority. They are administering a 300 million dollar, low cost loan program for Illinois Airports to improve airport security. The IDFA has expressed interest in attending the 2002 Illinois Aviation Conference on April 23-24, 2002 to present their programs and services directly to airport managers and airport governing bodies.
- IDOT Division of Aeronautics continues to make inspections at selected airports. Airport managers are being reminded to be vigilant as to suspicious personnel and/or operations at their facility.
- On February 11, 2002, the Illinois Air National Guard began mobilization of members of the 183rd Tactical Fighter Wing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 183rd mission will be in various locations throughout Southwest Asia and the U.S. Central Command region.
- The 5th Civil Support Team (CST) completed its 2002 Winter Olympics Support Mission in Utah. All personnel and equipment have safely returned.